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NEWS RELEASE

Aug. 9, 2000

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UM TECHNOLOGY CENTER OFFERS NETWORK TRAINING

MISSOULA—

The Information Technology Resource Center at The University of Montana has teamed up with Cisco Systems, Inc., to make computer network training available to Montanans.

The ITRC, a certified Cisco Networking Academy Program site, will begin offering courses to the public this fall. The four-semester program follows the curriculum developed by Cisco, a worldwide leader in computer and Internet networking. During the series, students will learn how to design, build and maintain state-of-the-art computer networks.

The first 15-week semester begins Sept. 6, with classes held each Monday and Wednesday evening at the ITRC, located in the Davidson Honors college. Academic credit is available through UM Continuing Education.

“Network administrators are essential to the success of almost all businesses, academic institutions and local and state government, yet most companies simply can’t find people with the right skills to meet the demand,” said Cisco Chair John Morgirdge. “That’s why it’s so important that today’s students get the skills needed for the jobs of the 21st century.”

Since its inception in October 1997, the Cisco Networking Academy Program has offered high-tech training to 21,000 students in 31 countries. In the United States, 10,000 students graduated from the four-semester program this year.

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“Over the past two years, we’ve seen a tremendous increase in the number of people in Montana who are interested in computing, information technology and especially networking,” said ITRC Director Lynn Churchill. “There is an incredible need for people with these skills and we’re excited to be able to offer these courses.”

The program also is taught as part of the core curriculum for the Computer Technology Network Management program at the UM College of Technology. Successful completion of the program is a first step toward becoming a Cisco Certified Networking Associate.

For more information, call the ITRC at 243-6317 or visit their Web site at www.itrc.umt.edu/ciscotraining.

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